

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #5682A

**REMARKS**

In the interview, the Examiner indicated that the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. However, the Examiner requested more information on the issue of support in the specification for the claimed invention under Section 112. This Response addresses that issue.

The specification discloses a textile comprising a fibrous treated textile substrate. The fibrous treated textile substrate has two sides, a first side (user contact surface) and a second side (backside). See Declaration of Sidney Locke, attached, para. 5. The substrate has a fluorochemical composition applied to the fibrous treated textile. The fluorochemical composition provides repellency to the fibrous treated textile substrate. Further, an antimicrobial agent is present in some applications of the invention. In the specification, the fluorochemical composition with antimicrobial may be applied to both sides in some of the examples, as it is immersed in an aqueous bath and then nipped to remove excess composition. Page 15, example 1; Declaration, paragraph 5. The specification contemplates that both fluorochemical and antimicrobial are applied to the first side of the fibrous textile substrate.

Another feature of the invention is an electrically conductive coating layer. In the specification, three alternatives are provided for the application of this coating layer. Declaration, page 6. As a first option, the fabric may be coated with an electrically conductive coating layer on a first side only (user contact side). Declaration, para. 6. Second, the fabric may be coated on the second side only (backside) ("second option"). Declaration, para. 6. A third option is that the fabric could be coated on both the first and second sides. Declaration, paragraph 6.

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The specification discloses the options of coating one or both sides:

The electrically conductive surface may be achieved by screen printing the fabric with an electrically conductive coating, wherein the conductive coating includes a conducting agent and a binding agent, and optionally a dispersing agent and/or a thickening agent. The fabric may be coated in any pattern which achieves the desired static dissipative property for the fabric end-use. The fabric may be coated on one or both sides as determined generally by the end-use of the fabric by considering the desired appearance of the coated fabric or the conductive performance of the coated fabric. The resulting electrically conductive fabric may be suitable in end-use applications such as automotive upholstery....

Specification, page 8 (emphasis supplied).

The specification discloses the coating of *one or both sides* once again on page 9, which comprises three separate embodiments (options):

It is also an object of the current invention to achieve a method for producing a static dissipative textile having an electrically conductive surface. The method generally comprises the steps of providing a knitted, woven, or nonwoven fabric, coating one or both sides of the fabric with an electrically conductive coating in a pattern comprised of lines, and drying the fabric. The fabric may then be exposed to one or more mechanical and/or chemical textile finishing processes known to those skilled in the art.

One useful embodiment is the application of the electrically conductive coating to the second side only (second option). Declaration, para. 7. One reason the second option has been found to be useful is that the electrically conductive coating otherwise would undesirably reduce hand and softness of the fabric -- if such coatings were applied to the first user side. Declaration, para. 7. In the specification, it is explained on page 9 that the textile

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has permanent anti-static properties which are achieved without significantly compromising the textile hand or feel of the textile or the surface appearance of the textile. Declaration, para. 8. This fact is disclosed in the specification more than once, including at page 9-10:

A static dissipative textile is provided which has relatively permanent anti-static properties which are achieved at substantially all relative humidities without significantly compromising the textile hand (or feel) of the textile or the surface appearance of the textile. The static dissipative textile generally comprises a fabric coated on at least on side with a pattern of an electrically conductive coating.  
Specification, page 9-10 (emphasis supplied)

A person of skill in the art of such textiles, upon reading this specification (as above) and reviewing the full description of this invention, could readily understand the benefits of using the second option with the coating layer on the second side only. Declaration, para. 8. A person of skill in the art of fabric manufacture, who reads the specification, can recognize the benefit of using the electrically conductive coating layer on only the second side of the treated textile substrate, as compared to using such a coating on the first side or both sides, as it would assist in preserving the "textile hand (or feel) of the textile or the surface appearance of the textile" as explained in the specification. The use of the coating on only the second side of the substrate, therefore, is consistent with and is disclosed in the written specification. Declaration, para. 8.

#### *Summary*

In summary, the pending claims, including amended claim 1, are fully supported by the specification of the invention. A Notice of Allowance is requested, given that the

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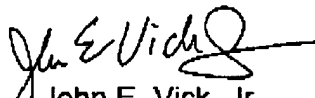
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amended claims are patentable over the cited art and are fully supported by the specification.

**General Fee Authorization:** In the event that there are fees associated with the completion of the Missing Parts for this application that are not specifically authorized by this Amendment, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

**Extension Of Time:** In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
John E. Vick, Jr.  
Reg. No. 33,808

Legal Department (M-495)  
Milliken & Company  
920 Milliken Road  
Spartanburg, SC 29303  
(864) 503-1383